

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 192385

55

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /066 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:EPDJEREJIAN:JMP

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

NEA/ARN - D. A. KORN

EUR/WE - R. P. GALLAGHER

NEA/TUR - N. MURPHY

NEA/ARP - F. M. DICKMAN

NEA/GRK - J. G. DAY

L/NEA - A. T. BROWN

----- 081628

R 271603Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINS, IT, SY (BATES, JONATHAN)

SUBJ: BATES CASE

1. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERING APPROACH ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS
TO THIRD COUNTRIES TO ASK INTERCESSION WITH SARG CONCERN-
ING JONATHAN BATES' CASE. (FOR INFO CERTAIN ADDRESSEE
POSTS: BATES IS 30 YEAR OLD AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO WAS
ARRESTED IN DAMASCUS WHILE THERE AS TOURIST ON FEBRUARY 9,
1972 AND ON TRIAL BY SYRIAN MILITARY TRIBUNAL ON CHARGES
OF ESPIONAGE SINCE DECEMBER 1972. BATES HAS BEEN DESCRIBED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 192385

TO US AS "SINCERE INTELLECTUAL TYPE" WHO WOULD INSIST ON

HAVING "MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS" WITH ARABS ON SUBJECT OF ISRAEL. BATES APPARENTLY ASKED TALK TO SYRIAN JEWS, THEREBY AROUSING SUSPICION OF SARG OFFICIALS CONCERNING HIS ACTIVITIES AND LEADING TO HIS ARREST. WE ARE CONVINCED BATES IS INNOCENT OF CHARGE OF ESPIONAGE AND BELIEVE SYRIAN COURT'S REPEATED POSTPONEMENT OF VERDICT INDICATES LACK OF EVIDENCE. CASE HAS BEEN TERRIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL, FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL ORDEAL FOR JONATHAN'S PARENTS. FATHER, FORMER PROFESSOR RALPH BATES OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY AND PROMINENT AUTHOR AND SCHOLAR, IS 73 YEARS OLD AND SUFFERING FROM HEART CONDITION. SYRIAN COURT HAS NOW TWICE POSTPONED HANDING DOWN VERDICT, IN JULY AND ON SEPTEMBER 20, THUS CREATING SUSPICION THAT WHILE NO EVIDENCE FOR CONVICTION EXISTS COURT UNABLE FOR POLITICAL REASONS TO ACQUIT

BATES. PARENTS FEAR THAT TRIAL MAY DRAG ON INDEFINITELY.

2. SUBSTANCE OF OUR APPROACH TO THIRD COUNTRIES WOULD BE:

(A) JONATHAN BATES IS VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHO INCARCERATED BY SARG AUTHORITIES SINCE FEBRUARY 1972 ON CHARGE OF ESPIONAGE WHICH WE ARE CONVINCED ARE BASELESS, ALTHOUGH BATES MAY HAVE COMMITTED INDISCRETIONS WHICH ADMITTEDLY MIGHT HAVE LENT THEMSELVES TO MISINTERPRETATION.

(B) BATES' PROLONGED INCARCERATION AND TRIAL CAUSING UNDUE PHYSICAL, FINANCIAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HARDSHIP AND SUFFERING FOR PARENTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY CASE FOR JONATHAN'S FATHER, A NOTED AUTHOR AND SCHOLAR, WHO IS 73 YEARS OLD AND SUFFERING FROM A HEART CONDITION.

(C) ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS WE WOULD HOPE THAT SARG WOULD ACQUIT BATES OF CHARGE OF ESPIONAGE AND END ORDEAL HIS INCARCERATION AND TRIAL HAVE CAUSED TO JONATHAN, HIMSELF, AND HIS PARENTS. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT COURT'S INACTION ON BATES CASE MAY BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ROME APPRISING FOREIGN MINISTRY ON A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS OF ABOVE OUTLINED APPROACH AND SEEKING FONMIN'S REACTION. WE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 192385

PLAN APPROACH SAUDIS, JORDANIANS, KUWAITIS, LEBANESE, GREEKS, TURKS, FRENCH AND BRITISH. EMBASSY SHOULD ASSURE FONMIN THAT WE ARE FULLY SATISFIED WITH WORK ITALIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS HAS DONE ON BATES CASE. APPROACHES TO OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD IN NO WAY BE INTENDED DEROGATE FROM ITALIAN ROLE AS PROTECTING POWER, AND WE WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE APPROACHES IF FOREIGN MINISTRY OBJECTS.

4. WELCOME INFO ADDRESSEE POSTS' COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY
AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ANY APPROACH WE MIGHT MAKE IN THIS
MATTER TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE192385
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EPDJEREJIAN:JMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LATHERTON
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973096/aaaaadvu.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <20-Sep-2001 by rowellE0, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <16-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BATES CASE
TAGS: CASC, PINS, IT, SY, (BATES, JONATHAN)
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005